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Montana and the sky

MDT Department of Transportation - Aeronautics Division Vol. 44 No. 5 May 1993

Dave Gates, MPA; Ron Mercer, Chairman, Montana Aeronautics Board; Representative Bob Gilbert; Debbie Alke and Representative Ted Schye look on as Governor Racicot adds his final touch to HB645.

Racicot signs aviation fuel tax legislation

By: Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

After many unsuccessful attempts to increase funding for the Aeronautics Division, legislation was finally successful during this legislative session.

The bill was sponsored by the Montana Pilots Association (MPA) with strong support from most all of Montana's aviation organizations and was introduced by Representative Ted Schye of Glasgow. Co-sponsors of the bill were Representative's Gilbert, Brandewie and Keller.

Loren Smith, Chairman of the MPA Taxation Committee, deserves a great deal of credit for the success of this legislation. Loren and his committee worked for over a year getting the bill ready and lobbying for its success. Many people talked to their legislators and travelled to Helena to testify on the bill's behalf. The Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) provided the services of their full-time lobbyist, John Semple.

See **TAX**, *page 3*

Transportation Secretary and Baucus visit

By: Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

Senator Max Baucus initiated a visit to Montana by newly appointed Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Frederico Pena last month.

During a stop at Billings, the Governor's Essential Air Service Task Force (GEASTF) was fortunate to be able to meet with the Secretary and Senator to discuss concerns regarding a recent order issued by the DOT affecting Montana's essential air service. (See related article, page 3).

Senator Baucus and task force representatives explained to Secretary Pena the importance of essential air service to Montana. The Secretary stated the administration will continue to support the EAS program.

Senator Baucus has been appointed Chairman of the prestigious Environment and Public Works Committee.

Senator Baucus and Secretary Pena listen to comments from the Governor's Essential Air Service Task Force.
Administrator's Column

PLEASE RETURN

Administrator's Column

Pilots Protest to Congress: The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association have documented that more than 15,600 pilots have written letters to their Legislators voicing opposition to the Administration's proposed increased in fuel taxes and the outrageous $300 per year federal aircraft registration plan. I wrote about this in last month's issue of this newsletter. If you have not written to Senators Baucus and Burns and Representative Williams expressing your opinion on this critical issue, I would urge you to do so as soon as possible.

General Aviation Bleak: I recently attended the National Air Transportation Association (NATA) Conference held in Denver and attended a meeting between officials of NATA and the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO). The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss how the States and NATA could develop a closer working relationship to address critical issues facing general aviation. I also attended several concurrent sessions addressing concerns about the future of general aviation in the United States. One very impressive session was a round-table discussion between the leaders of the five major national aviation organizations, Larry Burian, NATA; Phil Boyer, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA); John Olcott, National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA); Frank Jensen, Helicopters Association International (HAI); and Ed Stimpson, General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA). They addressed the state of the general aviation industry as it is today and they all seemed to agree that it is not good and unless we can turn things around it will get worse in the near future. The main threat is the product liability issue which has forced US manufacturers to either discontinue production of GA aircraft, relocate out of the U.S., or go out of business. This of course has driven the price of the remaining US aircraft out of sight and thus opened the door for foreign competition to take the lead in sales in the US. Other issues of concern are new and higher costs being proposed by the US government in the form of fuel taxes, aircraft registration, investment tax credit, luxury taxes, federal regulations, etc. One positive program that they all agreed may be of help is the I CAN FLY program currently being sponsored by Sporty's Pilot Shop which received high marks and strong industry support at the Conference. Many industry manufacturers and organizations have given commitments to support the program and a new independent, non- profit corporation will be formed to manage the program which is actually a spin-off of the GAME Plan which was sponsored by NATA as well as GAMA and some of the manufacturers such as Piper and Cessna. For more information about this program see the following article.

Promoting Learn to Fly: Flight Training Magazine is distributing a learn-to-fly kit which includes a King Accelerated Schools video tape "Lets Go Flying". This commendable effort is designed to encourage persons of all ages to learn to fly and thus promote general aviation by thus stimulating the stagnant flight training as well as the aircraft sales and service industry. According to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association student pilot starts have dropped to the lowest level in 22 years. For more information call 1-800-I-CAN-FLY.

Bonanza Production Cuts Denied: Beech has clarified rumors that they were going to cut production of the F-33 Bonanza series aircraft by announcing that they plan to continue production volume to meet the demand. In March, Beech announced that they will no longer utilize dealers to sell their King Airs, Starship, or the Beechjet. These aircraft will be sold factory direct. Beech piston engine aircraft will still be sold through their dealers which Beech maintains are an important core of their products.

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Marv Dye, Director

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TAX, *continued from page 1*

The legislation will increase by 2¢ per gallon for a total of 3¢ per gallon the tax on aviation fuel. A scheduled passenger air carrier certified under part 121 or 135 may claim a refund of 2¢ on each gallon of fuel purchased. A Montana refinery or distributor who sells JP-4 or JP-8 jet fuel to the federal defense supply center is entitled to a credit or refund of 2¢ a gallon for each gallon sold to the supply center.

Of the 2¢ increase, 1¢ will be used to establish a loan account for loans to local governments and state agencies for aeronautical purposes. Proceeds of all repayments of loans, including interest, must be deposited back into this account. This 1¢ increase will rescind when the loan fund after deposits and less refunds reaches $1 million.

The other 1¢ will be used to provide grants to municipalities for airport development or improvement programs and to provide navigational aids, safety improvements, weather reporting services, and other aeronautical services for airports and landing fields for the state's airways.

Each 1¢ will generate approximately $90,000 per year and must have board approval prior to spending. The increase becomes effective July 1, 1993.

A very intense lobby by some Part 121 freight carriers also seeking a 2¢ refund was unsuccessful due to consistent hard work by the aviation community and legislative supporters of the bill. In other legislation action, the Division was successful in obtaining a seasonal beer and wine license for the cafe operator at the Yellowstone Airport.

A bill adding to the Montana Aeronautics Board, a representative of the Association of Montana Aerial Applicators was successful. The bill combines the seats of the League of Cities and Towns and Montana Association of Counties into one, and adds the aerial applicator representative.

The Division would like to thank our many supporters for their hard work and support during the session, particularly Loren Smith, Representatives Ted Schye, Bob Gilbert and Bob Ream and Senator Cecil Weeding and the Montana Pilots Association for taking the lead role in sponsoring this bill.

New carrier selected for portion of EAS route

By: Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

Great Lakes Aviation of Spencer, Iowa has been awarded the contract for providing essential air service between Williston and Bismarck, ND, effective May 10, 1993 through November 30, 1994.

Big Sky Airlines of Billings has been providing that subsidized service, together with service to seven Montana communities, Glasgow, Glendive, Havre, Lewistown, Miles City, Sidney and Wolf Point. Big Sky did appeal to the DOT for a Stay of the Motion which has been recently denied. In denying the motion by Big Sky, the DOT did extend Big Sky's contract for providing service to the seven points in Montana to November 30, 1994 to coincide with the Great Lakes Aviation contract.

The GEASTF, consisting of representatives from the seven Montana communities plus Williston, ND, will be filing an appeal to the DOT's order. The appeal will concentrate on the DOT, without due process, changing the essential air service determination between Bismarck and Billings.

Service changes will begin May 10, and appeals are due at the DOT by May 28, 1993; sounds like the cart getting ahead of the horse?

Calendar

May 29 - 31 — Benchmark Work Session.
June 5 — Miles City Fly-in.
June 12 — EAA Chapter 57 4th Annual Fly-in, Laurel.
June 14 - 25 — Aerospace Teacher Workshop, University of Montana, Missoula.
June 16 - 19 — MAAA Air Tour.
June 18 -19 — Edgar G. Obie Airport Dedication, Chinook. 6/18 happy hour, dinner, dance. 6/19 breakfast, dedication at 10:00am. Camping available. For info. call 357-2429.
June 21 - 28 — Aerospace Teacher Workshop, Eastern Montana College, Billings.
June 26 — Plains Annual Fly-in. Call Randy Garrison 826-3605.
July 1 - 4 — 7th Annual Family Fun Fly-in and Flight Safety Expo, Helena Regional Airport.
July 12 - 17 — Just Plane Fun! Aviation Camp. Rocky Mountain College, Billings. Grades 7-11. Call Erik Anderson 259-5294 or John Cech 657-1040.
July 23 — Aeronautics Board Meeting, Yellowstone Airport.
July 16 - 18 — Schafer Meadows Work Session.
July 26 - 31 — Region 8 Soaring Championships, Livingston. Call Steve Ard 388-6887.
July 29 - August 4 — 41st Annual EAA Fly-in Convention, Oshkosh, WI.
August 5 - 8 — MAAA Fly-in, Three Forks.
August 7 — Sheridan County Airport Annual Fly-in. Breakfast. Safety seminar at noon. Sheridan, WY.
August 18 - 20 — INAC Conference, Helena.
August 28 — Montana Air Show '93, Glacier Park International Airport.
Sept. 3 - 6 — Fly-in, Yellowstone Airport, West Yellowstone.
Sept. 17 - 19 — Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.
Feb. 4 - 6, 1994 — Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena.

New appointments to Aeronautics Board

By: Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

Governor Marc Racicot recently appointed three new members to serve on the Montana Aeronautics Board. The members will serve four-year terms, ending January 1, 1997. The new appointees are:

Ron Mercer, Helena, representing the Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA), replacing Joe Attwood, Great Falls. Ron has also been appointed Chairman of the Aeronautics Board. He is the Airport Manager at the Helena Regional Airport and has been with the airport since 1981. He worked for Northwest Airlines for ten years and has also been involved in contracting and project development.

Ron is the President of the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Horizon Air Lines Southwestern Montana Community Advisory Board; Past-Campaign Chairman and Board member of United Way; President-elect of Helena Rotary and Co-Chair of the Hometown Helena Pride Committee.

Ron was born and raised in Helena and he and his wife Shari have five daughters.

Ron Mercer

Fred Booth, Highwood, is the Montana Pilots' Association Board representative, replacing Pete Pederson, Glasgow. Fred, after farming for many years in the Highwood area, is currently enjoying retirement.

He is a general aviation pilot and owner of a Cessna Turbo 182RG.

Fred serves as a board member to the Deaconess Hospital Foundation and Norwest Bank. He is a former member of the Highwood School Board and the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Fred and his wife Peggy have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Fred Booth

Byron Bayers, Twin Bridges, represents the Chamber of Commerce. He continues to operate a ranch in the Twin Bridges area raising purebred hereford cattle. The ranch has been operational for 75-years.

Byron is a Madison County Commissioner. He served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict; has served as Technical Assistant Advisor (cattle) to the government of Hungary; former President of the American Hereford Association and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award - University of Montana.

He operated an airplane sales agency for 15-years and served as a Piper dealer.

Byron has been a pilot for 40 years with 8,850 hours. He holds a commercial, multi-engine and instrument ratings and owns a Piper Comanche. He and his wife Pauline have three children.

Governor Racicot reappointed Joel Fenger, Chester, as the Association of Montana Aerial Applicators (AMAA) representative former Chairman and Chamber of Commerce representative and Doug Freeman, Hardin, to represent the Montana League of Cities and Towns and as the attorney representative on the Board. Both terms will expire January 1, 1997.

Byron Bayers

Other board members are Lee Ford, Missoula, public at large member, aviation education representative Greg Mecklenburg of Bozeman and Sharel Stroh, Havre, fixed base operator representative.

George Teslovick, the commercial airline representative, resigned effective March 31, 1993. A new member will be appointed to complete Mr. Teslovick's term which will expire January 1, 1995.

The next meeting of the Aeronautics Board will be held July 23 at the Yellowstone Airport.

MAAA Air Tour

The Montana Antique Air Association (MAAA) will conduct its annual air tour June 16 - 19. The air tour this year will make stops at:

6/16 — Rendezvous in Valier (evening)

6/17 — Travel to Choteau, Bootlegger Trail Airstrip, Hollandsworth Farm, Conrad, overnite Cut Bank.

6/18 — Stops at Shelby (visit with Delmar Benjamin and his Gee Bee), Chester, Ft. Benton, Big Sandy, Havre, overnite Chinook.

6/19 — Attend dedication Edgar G. Obie Airport. Travel to Zortman, Winifred, Geraldine, Stanford and Beacon Star Antique Airfield for grande finale and barbecue.

At appropriate times during stops, coffee, donuts and/or lunch will be served.

Make plans now to join in on the fun!!

Morrison Flying Service Honored

By: Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

Morrison Flying Service of Helena received the Tiger Spirit Gold Award.

The awards are presented annually by Exxon to a fixed based operator who excels in customer service and comments, and continually meets or exceeds volume quotas. In addition, the FBO is rated on the condition of its fuel trucks and tank farms and its fuel quality (cleanliness).

Morrison Flying Service is owned and operated by Jeff Morrison and was the only FBO in this region to receive such an award.

Congratulations Jeff and crew for a job well done!!

The United States Forest Service (USFS) conducted a seminar March 24-27 in Boise, Idaho to discuss and begin formulation of a limits of acceptable change (LAC) task force to address management of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Mike Ferguson, Kurt Becker, USFS, Frank Bass, MPA, Ray Costello, AOPA and Lanny Hanson, MPA participated in the meeting. Nine public use and three private airstrips will be affected by management decisions.

Many Montana pilots use the Idaho wilderness airstrips for recreational purposes. Management decisions reached in Idaho could influence management decisions made for use of Montana wilderness airstrips. Montana will continue to monitor Idaho's progress in this regard.

Airport Signs

By Gerald C. Burrows
Chief Airport/Airways Bureau

In an attempt at reducing runway incursions, the FAA has developed new standards for runway signs. A runway incursion is defined as, "Any occurrence at an airport involving an aircraft, vehicle, person, or object on the ground that creates a collision hazard or results in loss of separation with an aircraft taking off or intending to take off, landing or intending to land".

The new signs are being installed at a frantic pace at all U.S. airports, they may even show up at some smaller GA airports.

Principal new sign applications include:

A. Identification of taxiway or runway the aircraft is located.
B. Indicating the boundary of the runway safety area/object free zone for aircraft exiting the runway.
C. Indicating the boundary of ILS critical areas for aircraft exiting the ILS critical area.
D. Denoting holding positions on taxiways crossing runway approach areas.
E. Markers added indicating that a taxiway ends at the intersection.

Confusing? Not really, just write or call us for a FREE colored guide to U.S. Airfield Signs. These 5" X 8" FAA guides contain other valuable aeronautical information. Or stop by our office located on the Helena Airport.

Airport and Airways Update

By: Redge Meierhenry
Aviation Support Officer

The 1993 Montana Aeronautical chart is complete and available for $4.00. There are many changes, like new private airports, FSS frequency changes and the coming new airspace designations.

A navigational aids school was conducted in Lewistown, March 19 - 20 for our contract electronic technicians who maintain over 25 non-directional radio beacons. Two Nebraska Aeronautics technicians conducted part of the school offering practical experience with their NDB program. Three FAA airway facilities technicians from Billings and Seattle gave an excellent presentation on NDB basics including antenna theory. Litigation and log books were emphasized. This standardization - familiarization school is held every four years.

As part of our Continuous Aviation System Planning process, the Aeronautics Division has again scoped and a contract was let to this years update to our Montana Aviation System Plan. PCI of Missoula was competitively selected to perform this years update. Similar elements to previous years update are included in this years project, such as Capital Improvement Projects planning for 19 general aviation airports, and an update to the National Plan of Integrated Airport System (NPIAS).

A new element this year is the preparation of Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and ALP reports. Two airports selected for study are Harlowton and Choteau. The basic purpose of this work will be to assist these two airports in a detailed planning effort to upgrade their facilities.

This years contract from National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) for the Airport Safety and Data Collection (5010 inspections) program is well underway. The contract authorized inspection of 85 airports and three airport redrafts. To date, we have inspected 56 airports. Airport/Airways Development

Board approval has been granted for Preliminary Engineering Grants of $1,000 each to:

Wolf Point Airport
City of Wolf Point
Runway surfacing - porous friction course, replace snowplow

Stevensville Airport
City of Stevensville
Prepare topographic maps for planning: hangar and FBO sites

Anaconda Airport
Anaconda Airport Board
35' X 300' hangar access taxiway, rehabilitate runway 4/22 and taxiway, rebuild original apron area

The new Colstrip NDB was surveyed and ready to go when Peabody Coal decided to build a new coal haul road through the NDB site. The Colstrip pilots are checking out new sites.

Soar High at the RMC Aero. Camp

Because of its overwhelming success last year, Rocky Mountain College is once again offering an Aviation Camp for students entering grades 7-11, the only camp of its kind in a four-state area, July 12-17.

Campers will fly three times with aviation instructors in a private airplane at the Billings Logan International Airport. They also will experience two training sessions in Rocky's $100,000 flight simulator, and will learn about the diverse areas of aviation.

Instructor Erik Anderson, an airline transport pilot for St. Vincent Hospital and Health Care Air Ambulance Services, will give the campers a basic understanding of information that applies to student and private pilots.

The camp also will include: hands-on experiments with models, fun field trips, plus tours of modern and vintage airplanes and helicopters.

Rocky is offering the camp for $350, which is half the cost of comparable camps elsewhere in the United States. For a brochure or registration information, call the RMC outreach office at 657-1040 or 1041.

AOPA Updates "Fly-A" Programs

By: Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

AOPA has published new color brochures for four programs aimed at improving understanding of general aviation through education flights for friends, leaders, controllers and reporters.

The new brochures explain the purpose of each program and offer tips to pilots on making "Fly-A" flights a success. Copies are available by writing: "Fly-A" Brochures, AOPA Communications, 421 Aviation Way, Frederick, MD 21701 or call 800-USA-AOPA.

One strike: you may be out

(Reprinted with permission from Callback, NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System)

"Ag" pilots—those who conduct low-level crop spraying operation—draw some of the most hazardous flying duty around. Particularly deadly to their operations are unseen wires that stretch across fields. Here's how a wire strike prompted one pilot to improve his spotting plan:

Before I start spraying any field, I circle it to locate lines and other obstacles that could affect safe operation. On this field I had located two sets of power lines, one going east and west parallel to a road, and the other going north and south also parallel to a road. The two sets of lines met in the southeast corner of the field. What I did not see was a set of four No. 2 wire going northeast to southwest. These lines went across the southeast corner of the field between two poles of the already located lines.

It is very hard to see power lines in certain light conditions. So to find the lines we look for the poles that carry the lines. The lines I struck did not have any support poles.

After circling the field I started by entering the northeast corner of the field to do my clean-up pass first. It was during the pullup to clear the east/west lines that I struck the lines. I had very little time to react...The aircraft cut three wires and damaged the last...I flew back to airport with no problems. After landing I found three strikes to the propeller, skin damage to the vertical stabilizer, a hole in the left horizontal stabilizer, and damage to the safety wire...

...I went by what I expected to see, not the unexpected. I have now besides my aerial spotting added a ground spotting and a questionnaire for the farmer. A lesson was learned the hard way.

Jerry Mayala, President, Helena Hangar, Montana Pilots Association (MPA) presents Karrie Smith of Helena with the Junior Pilot of the Year Award. A $200 check was also presented to Karrie to assist with her continued flight training.
Karrie is a senior at Capitol High School in Helena and holds her private license. She plans to attend the University of North Dakota in the fall to continue her aviation studies.

Flying to Alaska?

If you are interested in or are planning a trip to Alaska and are looking for travel partners or contacts, call the Aeronautics Division at 444-2506. We maintain a file of interested persons and will provide this information to you upon request.

We have also been advised that Southern Aero Aviation, Inc. at the Springbank Airport, which is west of Calgary, allows airplane camping and provides other services at their facilities.

In memory of Nina Sands

We are saddened to report the recent death of Nina B. Sands, Havre.

Mrs. Sands was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Sands, pioneer aviator who was instrumental in preparing legislation to create the Aeronautics Commission and former Aeronautics Board member.

At Gordon's persuasion, Nina learned to fly to assist Gordon. She loved flying but not as a pilot. Mrs. Sands was 87 years old.

EAA gets clarification on MTBE in auto fuels

By: Debbie Alke
Administrative Officer

At the request of the EAA, the FAA has clarified the use of auto fuel containing the additive Methyl-Tertiary-Butyl-Ether (MTBE) in airframes and power plants under current Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs).

The FAA has approved the use of MTBE in auto fuel used by aircraft that have obtained STCs issued by EAA or Petersen Aviation. Testing has shown no safety-related problems or issues emerging because of auto fuel being blended with MTBE.

EAA President Tom Poberezny thanked the FAA for its clarification on this matter and said that "since much of the auto fuel used in major metro areas includes MTBE, it is critical for pilots and aviation maintenance personnel to have a clear understanding of auto fuel usage".

FAA Issues Certificates

Private

Anders Frostenson	Butte
Kenneth Gallagher	Forsyth
Billy Hall	Havre
Matthew Hamlin	Billings
Williams Hiscock	Bozeman
Edward Kerins	Helena
Joseph Lynch	Billings
James Potterf	Billings
Jeffrey Taylor	Huson

Instrument

Kenneth Eaton	Billings
Daniel Erickson	Great Falls
Craig Schweitzer	Bozeman

Commercial

Craig Schweitzer	Bozeman

CFI Renew

Larry Baier	Kalispell
Sherry Bilbrey	Great Falls
Richard Bowers	Red Lodge
Chris Chaney	Great Falls
Jeff Edes	Roundup
Gerald Garton	Great Falls
Damon Lander	Billings
Linda Marshall	Belgrade
Roger Muchmore	Billings
Richard Mutterer	St. Ignatius
Jay Nance	Birney
John Patten	Lewistown
John Stene	Polson
Gary Watson	Missoula
Richard Webb	Big Timber

CFI Reinstate

Gaylord Case	Billings
Jack Mathis	White Sulphur Springs
Thomas Stott	Billings

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